UCWC Social Justice Committee

Mission:

The Social Justice Committee leads, coordinates, and encourages the efforts of the UCWC community to bring about our vision of a more just, sustainable, and peaceful society and to have an impact on the needs of disadvantaged people, at local, state, national, and international levels by coordinating, supporting, and nurturing subcommittees, groups, and projects, and by developing leadership skills.

The Social Justice Committee provides the leadership that makes possible congregational action to embrace diversity and promote peace and justice in the world. This work offers opportunities for personal growth, generosity, education, service, witness, and advocacy.

Social justice work is not confined to the Social Justice Committee. Religious Education, Youth Group, and other groups often have social justice projects.



For more details about our committee's projects and project leaders, visit our website or contact us at: www.ucwc.org/social-justice social-justice@ucwc.org

The Unitarian Congregation of West Chester 501 South High Street West Chester, PA 19382-3603 610-692-5966 • www.ucwc.org

UCWC Mission Statement

As a diverse liberal faith congregation, we make a difference in our lives, our children's lives, and the wider community by creating an environment for spiritual growth and fulfillment, building meaningful connections, and for actively advancing peace and justice in the world. (adopted in June, 2009) Social Justice at the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester



I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

- Albert Schweitzer.

UCWC Social Justice Committee www.ucwc.org/social-justice social-justice@ucwc.org Animal Ministry Chapter. Educates and encourages Congregation members to support and participate in measures designed to reduce the abuse of animals. We have held film showings, Veggie Night Out dinners, and Sunday services.

⊠ animal-ministry@ucwc.org

Exploring Diversity Book Discussion

Group. Explores a variety of "differences" through both literature and film, so that we may better understand ourselves and others in the world.

⊠ diversity-book-group@ucwc.org

Fair Trade Products. UCWC uses and sells Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate to provide a fair price and decent working conditions for the producers. ☑ fair-trade@ucwc.org

Habitat for Humanity. Supports affordable housing locally with volunteer labor and fundraising for Habitat for Humanity of Chester County.
☑ habitat@ucwc.org

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender

Issues. UCWC earned the UUA Welcoming Congregation designation. We helped found and sponsor the local PFLAG group (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). ⊠ LGBT@ucwc.org

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. We

partner with St. Paul's Baptist Church and other faith communities in acts of public service on MLK Day. Our **Stop Hunger Now** project processed 20,000 nutritious meals in 2014 for worldwide distribution. ⊠ mlk-registration@ucwc.org

Safe Harbor Dinners. Provides a good dinner once a month for the homeless guests staying at Safe Harbor Shelter in West Chester. ⊠ safe-harbor@ucwc.org

Share-the-Plate Program. Once a month, the collection plate is shared with local agencies trying to improve life for Chester County residents. ⊠ share-the-plate@ucwc.org

Social Action Trust Fund. Grants are awarded annually to social action projects originating in West Chester. To donate, contact ⊠ income-treasurer@ucwc.org

Sustainable Living Email Discussion List

Uses advocacy alerts, event notification, tips, and cooperation to promote a more sustainable world.

email@ucwc.org (for requests to subscribe)

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

(UUSC). Our worldwide social justice organization focuses on humanitarian crises, civil liberties, economic justice, and environmental justice. Local activities include Guest At Your Table, holiday card sale, and Justice Sunday. ☑ uusc@ucwc.org

UU Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN). UU presence in

Harrisburg. Action areas are immigration justice, economic justice, reproductive justice, anti-mass incarceration, LGBT justice, and environmental justice. UUPLAN liaisons connect us to these efforts.

West Chester Food Cupboard. Collects food and funds for the West Chester Food Cupboard, which provides groceries and other items for those in need. UCWC members volunteer at the Food Cupboard on a regular basis.

 \boxtimes food-cupboard@ucwc.org

Ad Hoc Projects. We sometimes hold, or participate in, timely events, respond to local agencies' calls for help, or collaborate with local social justice organizations.

